

Introduced By: Military & Veterans Caucus Chair Collazo
Sponsored By: APIA Caucus Chair Lim; Black Caucus Chair Metellus; Disability Caucus Chair Yracheta; Latin/Hispanic Caucus Chair Gimenez Valero; Arab Ad Hoc Caucus Chair Al-Qudah
Contact: sgmvcampus@ucf.edu
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Committee Action: Passed 12-0-1
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Final Vote: Passed 37-0-1



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Sixth Student Body Senate
Proclamation 56-13**

[Proclamation to Recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);
WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, Suicide is a tragic and all-too-common occurrence, with significant and lasting effects on families, friends, and communities across our nation;
WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States in 2022, with 49,476 lives lost and an estimated 1.6 million suicide attempts;
WHEREAS, Research suggests that 90% of individuals who die by suicide may have experienced symptoms of a mental health condition, although only 46% had a diagnosed mental health condition at the time of their death, highlighting the importance of early intervention and mental health awareness;
WHEREAS, While more women than men attempt suicide, men are four times more likely to die by suicide, with 79% of all suicide deaths being male, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI);
WHEREAS, Indigenous Americans and Alaska Natives have the highest rates of suicide in the United States, followed by non-Hispanic white individuals, indicating the need for culturally sensitive suicide prevention programs and mental health services that address the unique challenges faced by these communities;
WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the suicide rate among Black individuals increased by approximately 19%, and the rate among Hispanic individuals rose by nearly 7% from 2018 to 2021, highlighting concerning trends in suicide rates among these populations;
WHEREAS, Certain populations are at particularly high risk, including Indigenous Americans/Alaskan Natives, non-Hispanic white individuals, LGBTQ+ youth, and veterans, with LGBTQ+ young people being more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers;
WHEREAS, Transgender adults are nearly nine times more likely to attempt suicide at some point in their lives compared to the general population, underscoring the need for inclusive mental health services and support for marginalized communities;
WHEREAS, The annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide is alarmingly high among certain populations, including 13% of young adults aged 18-25, 22% of high school students, and 41% of LGBTQ+ youth, indicating a critical need for targeted suicide prevention efforts in these groups;
WHEREAS, The Trevor Project estimates that more than 1.8 million LGBTQ+ young people (ages 13-24) seriously consider suicide each year in the U.S., and that at least one LGBTQ+ youth attempts suicide every 45 seconds, emphasizing the urgent need for supportive and affirming environments for LGBTQ+ youth;
WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs reported that in 2021, 3,274 lives were lost to suicide among veterans, with 546 of those occurring in Florida, highlighting the ongoing mental health crisis among our nation's veterans and the importance of providing comprehensive mental health care and support to those who have served our country;
WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals aged 10-14, the third leading cause of death among those aged 15-24, and a leading cause of death among veterans, with the suicide rate among veterans in Florida being significantly higher than that of the general population;
WHEREAS, The University of Central Florida's Field of Memories exhibit serves as a poignant reminder of the impact of suicide on college campuses, where 1,100 students are lost to suicide each year, and fosters a campus culture of support, awareness, and prevention;
WHEREAS, UCF provides critical resources to support students' mental health and well-being, including Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), UCF CARES, Victim Services, and Student Health Services, and encourages students to share their stories and messages of hope to those struggling with depression; and
WHEREAS, Raising awareness about the warning signs of suicide, reducing the stigma associated with seeking help, and increasing access to mental health resources can save lives and contribute to the overall well-being of our communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida recognize September as **National Suicide Prevention Month** in honor of those who have been affected by suicide, and we encourage all individuals, organizations, and communities to join in raising awareness, supporting those in need, and promoting mental health and well-being for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to President Alexander Cartwright, Student Success and Well-Being Vice President Dr. Adrienne Otto Frame, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), UCF Cares, Victim Services Dean of UCF College of Sciences Maggy Tomova, Chair of the Department of Psychology Florian Jentsch, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Care Services, Director of Student Care Services Dr. Tammie Nadeau, LGBTQ+ Student Support Services, The Lavender Council, Pride Commons, Military and Veterans Student Success Center, Director of the Military and Veteran Student Success Center Michael Kepner, Student Veterans of America UCF Chapter, UCF Women’s Veteran Association, Active Minds, American Red Cross Club, Health Awareness and Prevention Society, Mothers and Children Health Association, Pre-Occupational Therapy Organization, Psi-Chi International Honor Society of Psychology, and Psychological Society.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Allison Pohlmann
Senate President

09/16/2024

Date



Bryce Lister
Student Body President

09/24/2024

Date